



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center  
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

RL:0235

SR 260

REQUESTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO GRANT HAWAII AN EXCEPTION  
TO THE ANIMAL WASTE DISCHARGE REGULATIONS.

Statement for  
Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation  
and  
Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Public Hearing 14 March 1977

by  
Gordon Dugan, Department of Civil Engineering  
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

SR 260 would request that the Environmental Protection Agency grant the exception to their regulations regarding the discharge of animal wastes to navigable waters in Hawaii. This statement on this bill has been submitted for review to the legislative subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii. It does not represent an institutional position of the University.

The problem to which SR 260 is addressed is the discharge of animal wastes to Honolulu Harbor in the course of washing down the barges used to ship cattle from other islands to Oahu. Although discharges of animal wastes in the open ocean are of little consequence, the discharge of the same wastes in the confined waters of a harbor or estuary may have considerable detrimental ecological impact, contrary to the statement in paragraph 5 of the resolution.

The magnitude of the effects of the discharge of cattle wastes in Honolulu Harbor, as distinct from other environmental impacts of the Harbor use, is not clear. Deferral of the enforcement of EPA's regulations regarding this discharge may be warranted, considering that the environmental impacts of the discharge have already been effected, that time and expense will be involved in achieving compliance with the regulations, and that any impacts independent of other harbor uses will be as reversible later as earlier. On the wisdom of such deferral we have no judgement. However, if the resolution is to be adopted, we suggest that paragraph 5 be revised.